Notices

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Small Communities Program

Pursuant to the Community and Development Act of 1974, as amended and the Federal regulations issued in Washington on November 29, 1981 (24 C.F.R. part 570 Community Development Block Grant: State's Program) and approved by Congress on March 8, 1982, the Department of Community Affairs hereby publishes a preliminary program draft of a State administered Small Cities Block Grant program. The preliminary program draft is set forth in Annex A.

These preliminary program guidelines are designed to give citizens of the Commonwealth an opportunity to make known their thoughts and comments on this particular block grant. In order to achieve this aim, a series of public hearings have been scheduled for the following dates, times and places:

Public Hearing Sites

April 27, 1982, 7 — 10 p.m. — Wilkes-Barre
Woodlands Inn
Route 315
(717) 824-9831

April 27, 1982, 7 — 10 p.m. — Lock Haven
Lock Haven State College
Ulmer Planetarium
North Fairview Street

April 28, 1982, 7 — 10 p.m. — Butler
Holiday Inn
Route 8N
(412) 287-6761

April 28, 1982, 7 — 10 p.m. — New Cumberland
Sheraton Harrisburg
I-83 and Pa. Turnpike
(717) 774-2721

Interested citizens who cannot attend are invited to submit written comment to Edward Husted, Director, Bureau of Housing and Development, Department of Community Affairs, Forum Building, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

SHIRLEY M. DENNIS,
Secretary of Community Affairs

Annex A

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
SMALL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

I. NEED

II. IMPACT
- A. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
- B. COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION
- C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- D. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

III. IMPACT ON LOW AND MODERATE INCOME PERSONS

IV. BONUS/INCENTIVES

Introduction

A debate is occurring in America over the role of government in the lives of our people. Much of it is centered on the relationship between the Federal government and the states.

Beginning with General Revenue Sharing in 1972 and continuing with the establishment of the Community Development Block Grant in 1974, the United States Congress has sought to re-establish the balance between these two levels of government and the many local communities each seeks to serve. The evolution of a significant policy as well as administrative role for states grows out of a recognition that our pluralistic society can allow for great diversity while still achieving national goals.

It is because of this and specifically the provision that states will have "Primary and Direct Responsibility" for administration, that we in Pennsylvania have chosen to accept state assumption of this program.

In Pennsylvania, our administration of the Small Communities Program will be based on a strategy of community conservation and economic development. Briefly stated, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania faces a unique set of challenges in the present decade. These challenges center on our need to marshall public and private resources in a way that provides each of our citizens with adequate shelter and the opportunity to find and keep a decent job.

Today, some of our urban and rural centers face such problems as disinvestment in commercial and industrial facilities, a declining property tax base, a growing proportion of the population being made up of poor and unemployed and an aged and deteriorating housing stock. While these difficulties present serious obstacles to a general recovery, they are not insurmountable.

The task which now lies before us is to build upon the significant investment made by earlier generations of Pennsylvanians in the welfare of our state. By recognizing the possibilities of housing restoraton and rehabilitation to provide affordable, adequate shelter; by restoring and maintaining basic community facilities in our older urban and rural centers; by supporting the job creation potential inherent in small business retention and expansion; and by building on our great tradition of local government initiative, we look to achieve the goals of economic development and community conservation.

The following is the basic program approach for the implementation of a Small Communities Program here in Pennsylvania. In essence it seeks to fund projects where the need is greatest matched with the capacity to meet those needs.

We believe that this approach is more reflective of the needs of our State, that it will provide increased opportunity for State and local administrators to develop good and workable projects and that it will give to our citizens a greater voice in the application of their dollars.

Finally, as available State resources are scarce relative to the total needs of our communities and because the need exists to maximize those available resources, this will be a competitive program in which eligible applicants will apply on an annual basis for program funds.

General Program Guidelines

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include any non-entitlement general purpose unit of local government, which includes cities, counties, boroughs, townships, towns, home-rule municipalities, counties applying "in behalf of" and municipalities "opting out" of urban counties. Entitlement areas and urban counties are those as defined in the Housing and Community Develop-